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21 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT: Agency Warnings About Pacification Problems in the
Latter Half of 1967**

1. Per our conversation of 18 March, I have had a quick look taken here at Agency comments and memoranda which alerted our customers to the fact that all was not going well with pacification during the latter half of 1967. Attached are several sets of documents which bear on this subject and which you may find it useful to skim. This is an illustrative rather than a comprehensive compendium.

a. Attachment I is an extract from our 8 December "Review of the Situation in Vietnam" done for Secretary McNamara to brace him for the TV appearance that did not take place at the time. Pertinent sentences are underlined in red.

b. Attachment II consists of the summary sheets from representative sections of the Revolutionary Development portion of OCI's Vietnam Weekly report, published each Monday. The attached samples span the period from 25 September 1967 to 2 January 1968.

c. Attachment III consists of a memorandum I personally gave Secretary McNamara in December and vu-graphs of the two large charts we showed him and Secretary Nitze when they visited us in December (the day Sherm Kent got his award). The point was clearly made that the relatively minor changes in the over-all population control figure during 1967 masked appreciable movement at both province and district level. There had been serious retrogression in some areas, sufficiently offset by progress in others to keep the net national total relatively unchanged. The fairly static national figure, however, was misleadingly comfortable when you looked at what was really happening in the provinces and districts. I presented and explained the same charts at a Rostow Monday meeting in December 1967.

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2. As these attachments indicate, the Agency on numerous occasions and in numerous ways ran up a flag about problems in the pacification program. Our judgment of 18 March, therefore, cannot be considered by any reader as a surprise coming out of the blue.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachments

GAC:mee

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